GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:579
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
FISHERMEN LANGUISHING IN SRI LANKAN AND PAKISTANI JAILS
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen languishing in the jails of Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps for their release; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) There are five fishermen in the custody of the Government of Sri Lanka and 48 fishermen in Pakistani custody.

(b) & (c) Government maintain regular contacts with the respective Governments of Sri Lanka and Pakistan through diplomatic channels for securing the earliest release and repatriation of detained Indian fishermen.